

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for validating a data stream~~ comprising:
- generating a unique validation key associated with ~~the~~ a data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;
 - generating the data stream;
 - storing the unique validation key;
 - embedding the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream, wherein the validation key embedded data stream is to ensure that the data stream includes content intended for an associated destination, wherein the validation key is embedded in the data stream wrapped by predetermined data, the predetermined data including a number of predetermined bytes to precede and trail the validation key, wherein the validation key is obtained prior to requesting the data stream;
 - and
 - sending the validation key embedded data stream to the associated destination.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the source comprises one or more of a source of audio information, a source of video information, and a source of audio-video information and the URL.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the generating of the unique validation key associated with the data stream comprises generating the

unique validation key in response to a request for data to be retrieved from the URL.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein generating the unique validation key associated with the data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source comprises generating the unique validation key and sending the unique validation key to the associated destination.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the data stream comprises one or more of encoded video information, encoded audio information, encoded audio-video information, and encoded information from the URL.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
receiving the unique validation key at the associated destination; and
sampling the validation key embedded data stream in response to detecting the
unique validation key in the validation key embedded data stream.
37. (Cancelled)
38. (Cancelled)
39. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for validating a data stream~~ comprising:
receiving a unique validation key associated with ~~the~~ a data stream, the unique
validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique
validation key received is generated based on a combination of a uniform
resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;
storing the unique validation key;
receiving the data stream;
sampling the data stream to detect the unique validation key embedded in the data
stream, wherein the validation key embedded data stream is to ensure that

the data stream includes content intended for an associated destination,
wherein the validation key is embedded in the data stream wrapped by
predetermined data, the predetermined data including a number of
predetermined bytes to precede and trail the validation key, wherein the
validation key is obtained prior to requesting the data stream; and
validating the data stream in response to detecting the unique validation key
embedded in the data stream.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the source comprises one or more of a source of audio information, a source of video information, and a source of audio-video information and the URL.
41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising requesting data to be retrieved from the URL.
42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising generating an error if the unique validation key is not detected in the data stream.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
creating a log file; and
writing the error to the log file.
44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a database;
a server coupled with the database, the server having
a processor, and
a memory coupled with the processor, the memory including
a key generation module (KGM) to generate a unique validation key
associated with a data stream, the unique validation key to map the

data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key, and

an encoder to embed the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded data stream, wherein the validation key embedded data stream is to ensure that the data stream includes content intended for an associated destination, wherein the validation key is embedded in the data stream wrapped by predetermined data, the predetermined data including a number of predetermined bytes to precede and trail the validation key, wherein the validation key is obtained prior to requesting the data stream;

the database to store the unique validation key; and

the server to send the validation key embedded data stream to the associated destination.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the source comprises one or more of a source of audio information, a source of video information, and a source of audio-video information, and the URL.
46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the encoder encodes one or more of audio information, video information, and the URL.
47. (Cancelled)
48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the server sends the unique validation key to the associated destination in response to receiving a request for data to be retrieved from the URL.

49. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
- a key generation module (KGM) to generate a unique validation key associated with a data stream, the unique validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource locator (URL) and an encryption key;
- an encoder coupled with the KGM to embed the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key embedded stream, wherein the validation key embedded data stream is to ensure that the data stream includes content intended for an associated client, wherein the validation key is embedded in the data stream wrapped by predetermined data, the predetermined data including a number of predetermined bytes to precede and trail the validation key, wherein the validation key is obtained prior to requesting the data stream;
- the associated client to receive the validation key embedded stream; and
- a database coupled with the associated client to store the unique validation key.
50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the source comprises one or more of a source of audio information, a source of video information, and a source of audio-video information and the URL.
51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the associated client requests data to be retrieved from the URL.
52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the associated client generates an error if the unique validation key is not detected in the data stream.
53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein a server creates a log file and writes the error to the log file.

54-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium ~~having stored thereon data representing sets of comprising instructions which, when executed by a machine,~~
cause ~~the~~ a machine to:

generate a unique validation key associated with a data stream, the unique

validation key to map the data stream with a source, wherein the unique

validation key is generated based on a combination of a uniform resource

locator (URL) and an encryption key;

generate the data stream;

store the unique validation key;

embed the unique validation key in the data stream to form a validation key

embedded data stream, wherein the validation key embedded data stream is

to ensure that the data stream includes content intended for an associated

destination, wherein the validation key is embedded in the data stream

wrapped by predetermined data, the predetermined data including a number

of predetermined bytes to precede and trail the validation key, wherein the

validation key is obtained prior to requesting the data stream; and

send the validation key embedded data stream to the associated destination.

59. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein the
~~sets of instructions when executed by the machine,~~ further cause the machine to
sample the data stream to detect the unique validation key embedded in the data
stream.

60. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein the
~~sets of instructions when executed by the machine,~~ further cause the machine to

generate the data stream, wherein the source is one or more of audio information, video information, and audio-video information.